

Claims

I CLAIM:

1. A method of placing braille letters on an architectural sign face comprising:

drilling holes in a sign corresponding to the pattern of braille letters desired to be formed in said sign; and

fastening a separate member into each of said holes so that each separate member extends into each respective one of said holes and each separate member extends outwardly from said hole approximately the same distance as each of the other members extend^s outwardly from other respective holes in which they are disposed.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said fastening step includes forcing members into said holes which are slightly larger than said holes thereby frictionally holding said members in place with respect to said sign.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said fastening step includes forcing a respective one of said members in the shape of a sphere into each respective one of said holes to an extent greater than the radius of said respective sphere whereby less than half of each of said respective spheres extends from each one^{of} said respective holes and the widest portion of said sphere is in contact with the interior walls forming each of said respective holes.

4. An apparatus for placing braille letters on an architectural sign comprising:

a frame;

sign holding means for selectively holding said sign fixed with respect to said frame;

drilling means for forming a plurality of holes in said a front surface of said sign in a pattern corresponding to braille letters, said drilling means having a bit disposed to rotate about an axis;

means for selectively positioning said bit with

respect to said frame;

template means operatively attached to said frame having a plurality of sets of six structures disposed in a spaced apart relationship, each of said set corresponding to the relationship of dots used to form all of the letters of the braille alphabet; and

drill holding means operatively attached to said positioning means for selectively holding said drilling means in a position whereby the axis of said bit is directly in alignment with the axis of each respective hole to be drilled in said sign during the forming of each respective hole, said drill holding means further comprising means for maintaining contact with any chosen one of said structures within any one of said sets while said respective hole is being formed whereby a user can move said positioning means from one structure to another structure within any one or more of said sets of structures, thereby forming with said drilling means a desired pattern of holes corresponding to braille letters to be formed in said sign.

5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said structures comprise openings in said template means and said drill holding means includes a pin adapted to fit at least partially into said openings in said template means.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said drill holding means includes means for biasing said pin downwardly toward said template means to a first longitudinal position thereof whereby said pin will be biased into any one of said openings, if aligned therewith, and whereby the biasing means can be overcome to move said pin to a second longitudinal position thereof whereby it can be moved into alignment with any other chosen opening in said template means.

7. The apparatus of claim 6 whereby said biasing means is constructed of spring steel.

8. The apparatus of claim 1 including a means

for measuring linear distances disposed on said template means adjacent said sets of structures.

9. The apparatus of claim 8 including means for adjustably holding said template means with respect to said frame whereby said template means can be positioned to correspond to the desired placement of holes into said sign.

10. The apparatus of claim 1 including means for biasing said drilling means and thereby said bit to a first position spaced from said sign and permitting the biasing means thereof to be overcome when it is desired to form a hole at a particular location on said sign.

11. The apparatus of claim 1 including electric means for rotating said bit.

12. The apparatus of claim 11 including rheostat means operatively attached to said drilling means for adjusting the speed of rotation of said bit.

13. The apparatus of claim 1 including first translating means operatively attached to said frame for permitting said drilling means to move in a first direction with respect to said frame.

14. The apparatus of claim 13 including means operatively attached to said frame and to said first translating means for permitting said drilling means to move in a direction perpendicular to said first direction of movement thereof due to said first translating means whereby said bit can be positioned virtually anywhere above said sign in preparation for drilling said holes therein.

15. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said sign holding means includes a hold-down member having a first position in contact with said sign and holding said sign in frictional contact with said frame and a second position spaced from said sign whereby said sign can be removed from said frame and hold-down biasing means for biasing said hold-down bar to said first position thereof.

16. The apparatus of claim 15 including a cam operated handle means for selectively moving said hold-down member to said second position thereof or selectively permitting said hold-down biasing means to move said hold-down member to said first position thereof.

17. The apparatus of claim 1 including means for picking up a spherical member and pushing it into one of the holes formed in said sign.

18. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said pick-up means includes means for forcing more than half of said spherical member into a respective one of said holes in said sign whereby less than half of said spherical member extends out of said respective hole.

19. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said pick up means is pneumatic.